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Notes- *Nebraska Bird Review* (December 1987)

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NOTES

YELLOW RAILS. On 21 September 1986, while conducting a waterfowl survey on the Jack Senn WMA, near Ceresco, Lancaster Co., I flushed a small rail-like bird, which flew a short distance before landing in heavy grass. Although its flight was very similar to the Virginia Rail and the Sora, which I was accustomed to seeing, the light color and white wing patches were very distinctive. Later I checked a field guide and found that the description most closely matching this bird was that of the very secretive Yellow Rail.

I had planned to do some rail and snipe hunting the next day, so the following morning I returned to the area with my brother and my springer spaniel. Within four hours we flushed approximately 12 rail and collected 5, 3 of these were Yellow Rails.

What I have found in subsequent outings in the marsh is that the Yellow Rails tend to be even more difficult to flush than the Virginia and Sora rails. Their flight distance is generally much shorter (10 to 15 yards) and in several instances when I observed them landing they immediately dove under the vegetation and began running. On several occasions when I saw the exact spot a bird landed I was unable to reflush it, even with the help of my dog.

During summer nest drag surveying of the area Sora and Virginia Rail were flushed on a regular basis, but it was only during a 2 to 3 week period in late summer that I saw Yellow Rails. I am assuming these were all migrating birds, and none nest in the area.

--- Charles Lesick, Sr., Box 377, Cedar Bluff, Neb. 68015.

PECTORAL SANDPIPERS. Eight Pectoral Sandpipers, coming into alternate plumage, were feeding in a roadside pool near Lowell, Kearney Co., 4 April 1987.

--- Graham Chisholm, 2605 Haste St. #305, Berkley, Cal. 94704

ALBINO ROBIN. This albino Robin was found as a fledgling in northwest Lincoln. The bird had completely white plumage, red eyes, and pale yellow legs and bill. The parents were feeding it, but someone caught it to give to the Folsom Children's Zoo on 28 May 1985. The Zoo turned it over to Sue Graupner of the Wildlife Rescue Team to raise. She took the picture when it was banded. It was released in east Lincoln 17 July and two days later it was seen once more in a park in the same area.

--- Bill Garthright, 2240 N. 31st St.
Lincoln, Neb. 68503



PARTIAL ALBINO ROBIN. A partial albino Robin, with a red breast and a white back, head, tail, and wings, nested in Auburn in 1986. A first nest was destroyed by a windstorm and a second nest was then reportedly built.

--- John Row, (now) 1837 Cassell Road, Manhattan, Kan. 66502

ANOTHER PARTIAL ALBINO ROBIN. My daughter, Carol, and I saw a Robin, creamy colored where it should be black, with a red breast (which was the clue to identification), in Carter Lake, Iowa (which is on the Nebraska side of the river) 25 April 1986. It was not seen on later trips.

--- R. G. Cortelyou, 5109 Underwood Avenue, Omaha, Neb. 68132

RED CROSSBILLS. From 22 to 24 August 1986 from six to eight Red Crossbills were off and on visitors to our hackberry tree in Auburn.

--- John Row, (now) 1837 Cassell Road, Manhattan, Kan. 66502

1988 ANNUAL MEETING
GERING/SCOTT'S BLUFF